

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the record location information comprises information based on which a coded image reading apparatus outputs information regarding a record location of a coded image to be subsequently read.

In addition, independent claim 5 has been amended in a similar manner, as well as to explicitly recite that the coded image reading apparatus includes outputting means for outputting information regarding the record location of the coded image to be subsequently read.

In addition, claims 6 and 7 have been amended to recite the features of the present invention whereby the recording medium on which the coded image to be subsequently read is recorded is identical to, and different from, the recording medium on which the (previous) coded image is recorded, respectively.

Still further, claims 3 and 10 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements.

No new matter has been added, and is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 6,330,976 ("Dymetman et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended claims 1 and 5, the coded image contains record location information indicative of a record location at which the coded image is recorded on the recording medium, and the record location information comprises information based on which the coded image reading apparatus outputs information regarding the record location of a coded image to be subsequently read by the user.

By virtue of this feature, even when information is divided into a number of coded images, and these coded images are recorded on one or more recording mediums, the user has only to make the reading apparatus read an optional one of the coded images. Thereafter, the reading apparatus outputs information regarding the record location of a coded image to be subsequently read, based on the record location information contained in said one of the coded images. Thus, the user is only required to make the reading apparatus successively read the coded images in accordance with the information output from the reading

apparatus. Consequently, the user can very easily and correctly make the reading apparatus successively select and read the coded images, and finally, easily desired information based on the coded images.

On the other hand, Dymetman et al discloses a system in which machine-readable coded markings are embedded in a document, and page location information or document identifying information is recorded on the coded markings, and the information included in the coded marking is utilized as information for obtaining information from a network. That is, Dymetman et al discloses a system in which the coded image contains record location information indicating the record location of the coded image on the recording medium.

However, with respect to the record location information, it is respectfully submitted that Dymetman et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest that the information regarding the record location of a coded image to be subsequently read by the user is information to be output from the coded image reading apparatus. Accordingly, in Dymetman et al, if information is divided into a number of coded images, and the coded images are recorded on one or more recording mediums, it is impossible to inform the user of the order in which the coded images should be read. And therefore, Dymetman et al cannot achieve the advantageous effects of the claimed present invention.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that Dymetman et al merely discloses location information of information (character, an image or the like) which is printed on a document and which can be obtained based on coded markings, and in addition, that the location information is obtained through a network. This reference, however, does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 5 whereby the record location information comprises information based on which a coded image reading apparatus outputs information regarding a record location of a coded image to be subsequently read.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 5, as well as each of claims 2-4 and 6-7 and 10 respectively depending therefrom, patentably distinguishes over Dymetman et al under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

RE: Request to Act on IDS and Acknowledgment
of Receipt of Priority Document

Further to the paper filed in the Patent Office on September 22, 2003, it is again respectfully requested that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A filed June 3, 2003 to confirm that the publications listed therein have been considered and made of record, and it is again respectfully

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requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified priority document which was filed in the USPTO on June 5, 2002.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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